

MINUTES
BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
September 13, 2016
2:00 p.m.

Present: David Cannon, Chairman, Matthew Kizer, Bruce Shaw, and Pat Sheehan Committee Members; Iris Hill, ex-officio and Steven Traynum, Coastal Science and Engineering. Bill Davies was absent with prior notice.

Approval of Minutes: Matthew Kizer moved to approve the minutes of June 28, 2106 and seconded by Bruce Shaw. Chairman Cannon noted a change to be made on page four. Deborah Hargis stated she would make the change, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Status of PRT Funding Request: Town Administrator Iris Hill updated the Committee on the PRT application. The application was delivered to the PRT office in Columbia in on August 30, 2016 by Deborah Hargis. The Town is currently waiting for the PRT to determine whether or not they will accept our application and award the Town the funding. The Edisto Beach State Park has to apply to the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Board separately, which they have not yet done. Steven Traynum stated the State Park had to do their renourishment at the same time as the Town, or they would have to get another permit. Administrator Hill said a panel of five would award the funding. The panel is made up of two people from OCRM, two from PRT and one person from the community.

Status of Hunting Island Renourishment Project: Mr. Traynum said that Hunting Island was still in the comment period stage of the permitting process. Some Harbor Island residents are still voicing concerns. Mr. Traynum said he was not sure that Hunting Island would get their permit any time soon.

Amount and Status of FEMA Reimbursement: Administrator Hill said that the amount would be \$1.4 million dollars. The status is on hold. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has requested an archeological survey, which has been done. The survey team sent a preliminary email stating they did not find anything of significance in the study. That email was forwarded to SHPO who stated they required the complete report. Senator Campsen has interceded on the Town's behalf, with little success. Administrator Hill anticipates having the report completed in the next few weeks. After the report is received, FEMA then has to complete their review. The Town asked for a time frame and FEMA was very vague.

2016 Beach Nourishment Project: Chairman Cannon asked Mr. Traynum if \$12 million dollars was still "a good figure." Mr. Traynum assured Mr. Cannon it was still accurate, even though the prices on the groin lengthening would probably be "all over the place." The groin lengthening will be bid out with different materials. The way the nourishment project is laid out is pretty straightforward. The groins will be the variable. Mr. Cannon asked if the sheet pilings and composite sheet pilings would be bid separately. Mr. Traynum said that they would. The base bid will be the composite sheets with a line item for the steel.

Mr. Cannon asked about the drawings of the groins. He stated, "It did not appear to me that the armor stone in the vicinity of the sheet piling was grouted." Mr. Traynum agreed that was the case. "Where we have the sheet piles, the only grout is in the connection between the old groin and the new groin to make that impermeable." Mr. Cannon expressed his concern over sprawl. He asked Mr. Traynum what prevented the rocks from sprawling out if they were not grouted. Mr. Traynum stated that nothing was preventing that from happening, and that some of the rock would most likely be displaced, but that there was not much displacement in other projects similar to Edisto's. Mr. Traynum stated that if the grout prices came in fairly inexpensive, extra grouting may be done.

Mr. Cannon referred to the minutes from the June 28, 2016 meeting saying, "Groins 30, 31 and 32 will be stacked and grouted. I can't find any reference to it in the plans here." Mr. Traynum replied, "That was initially considered several years ago when they were mostly buried....Now that they are pretty exposed, groins 30, 31 and 32 actually have a fairly good profile.....We have a line item for repair work and the way we are looking at 29 is basically taking the center line of it and rock more than twenty feet from that center line will be reincorporated back into the groin." Matthew Kizer asked about groins 28 and 29. Mr. Traynum said that there was loose rock at the end of 28 that would be restacked, and some grout would be added. The groin would not be lengthened, just pulled back together. The reason behind not adding length to 28 is the detrimental down drift effect lengthening would cause. Mr. Traynum added, "Around that corner, the way the groins are angled, they're not angled perpendicular to what the natural shoreline would be, they're kind of angled perpendicular to front beach. So by extending that even further, you're going to increase the scarp effect up drift and down drift of it. In an ideal world, we would probably like to rotate that whole structure to make it more perpendicular to that curve. But that's not within this permit and I think (there is) a lot of uncertainty as well. So we're not really proposing to do a whole lot at 28 other than restacking it. And again, at 29 there's enough of a buffer in front of those houses...and lengthening those....instead of having an arching shoreline, you'd end up with a rectangular shoreline."

Mr. Cannon voiced his concern about groin 28. "If you look at the layout, 28 is set back in from the line connecting 27 and 29.... I think it's vulnerable, that area." Mr. Traynum reiterated, "Because of that, we did shorten 27 from up to 100 feet down to 50 feet. The way we came up with those lengths was based on the distance from Palmetto Boulevard. When the angle starts changing, it throws off the calculation. We looked at the shore and what the shore was doing and brought it back to what looks like a lot more sense." "Again, 28 is probably a perfect example of a groin that's not in line with what the shoreline is doing there. If it was rotated a little bit, you wouldn't have so much of an offset. Twenty-nine is the same way, where you have such a big buildup of vegetative area on each side of it." "We didn't call out 28 to receive any lengthening in the permit, so if we were to substantially lengthen it, we would have to get a permit modification."

Mr. Kizer asked what the plan would be if there was a problem down drift. Mr. Traynum said there were a few different options, but the best, least expensive way would be to shorten the groin causing the problem.

Mr. Traynum addressed the nourishment phase of the project next. The Town portion (as opposed to the State Park portion) should be substantially completed by January 27, 2017. The groin lengthening will take place after that. CSE is not guaranteeing that the entire nourishment will be

completed by then, and the interested groin lengthening contractors have been notified they will most likely be working around the tides and may be in the water at some point. Early- to mid-December is when the nourishment will begin. There is no established “starting point” for the nourishment. The nourishment and groin work will be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Mr. Traynum said that a good estimate of how much sand would be moved daily during the nourishment would be 20,000 yards per day. There is no set “starting point” for the groin lengthening either. CSE is going to “highly suggest” or require the groin contractor to have at least two crews so one can be driving sheets on one groin while putting stone on another groin.

Administrator Hill asked how the sand would get down to the State Park. Mr. Traynum said it would be transported through pipes. Mr. Kizer asked if the plan was to use several beach accesses or if the contractors would try to concentrate on a few. Mr. Traynum showed the Committee some of the accesses that have been identified as staging areas. The contractors will probably have to use some accesses for their large equipment, and some of those accesses will have to be widened. Mr. Traynum stated, “Anything that they tear up, they have to build back to grade and plant. You’ll be able to tell they used it, but it will restore itself fairly well.”

Mr. Cannon asked about groin number 4. “I’m looking at some of the drawings from 2014. Extrapolating out, it looks like.....you could work out to about a minus ten. On groin 26, you run into minus ten, extrapolating out at maybe 75 feet or so. Are you sure you can’t make those – 26, 27 – longer?” Mr. Traynum replied, “We can, we have the permit to do that. If we have funds to do it, we can” “If you want to lengthen them now, and possibly run the risk of shortening them later, that’s an option. Again, we can’t predict exactly what’s going to happen one way or the other. But you’re mentioning 28 is already recessed back, if we lengthen 27 even further, it’s going to make that offset even greater.”

Matthew Kizer asked if Council would approve the current plan before going out to bid on the project. Administrator Hill said that Phase II had already been approved and it included going out for bids. Council will have to approve the awarding of the bids and the amount before construction begins. Administrator Hill is currently working to include all that the federal government is asking to be included in the bid documents. Mr. Kizer asked what the financial impact would be if Hunting Island did not cost share with Edisto. Mr. Traynum said it would be a small percentage. Administrator Hill stated, “Our permit is with the (Edisto Beach) State Park, and we’re counting on the State Park because they share the mobilization (costs) with us on their project.”

Mr. Kizer asked if he could let renters know about the upcoming project. Mr. Traynum said he didn’t recommend putting specifications on his website, since there will be some changes. Mr. Traynum stated, “The important information for renters is the nourishment is going to be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day, they’re going to work, unless the weather’s bad.” Administrator Hill said that the noise from heavy equipment will be audible and lights from equipment will be visible. Mr. Traynum estimated that a 500’ section of beach would be closed on any given day while nourishment was going on. If there’s enough room available, the back side of that section will be open to allow people to walk on the beach. In some areas, that will not be possible, so there will be sections of the beach that will be inaccessible for a period of time. There will be a pipe running down the beach. A ramp will be built over the pipe so the day after a site is cleared, it will be accessible. Once the contractor is chosen, CSE will meet

with the contractor and decide where nourishment will begin. Groin contractors will be allowed to work at night as well, to take advantage of the tides. Administrator Hill stated that our residents and visitors should be made aware that the project is coming up. Administrator Hill noted the public meeting that will take place on September 30, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Edisto Civic Center, after which the team will go block to block on the beach meeting with anyone interested, to explain what is proposed for that specific area.

Mr. Cannon asked Mr. Traynum to “seriously reconsider the length of groin 26 and 27, and examine the depth of the water. I don’t think another 25 feet will do anything as far as scarping down drift. And if it’s just a question of the depth of the water there, I think you can do another 25 feet.” Mr. Traynum reiterated, “Again, we can look at that, but without lengthening groin 28, I’m just nervous we’re going to potentially have some impacts right around the north end of that cell, so just south of 27. That’s probably the narrowest lot right now is that one just south of 27. But by lengthening 27 we’re jeopardizing that specific area.”

Mr. Kizer noted that after renourishment, OCRM would possibly change the baseline. Mr. Traynum said that OCRM is in the process of establishing new baselines and setback lines for the state. This will be the last time the lines can be moved seaward. OCRM is currently trying to define where the dune is, according to Mr. Traynum, which is where the baseline would be set. There will be a comment period after the setback and baselines are set, and if the Town can demonstrate that the line should be further seaward, it can be reviewed. Mr. Traynum was under the impression that the entire state of South Carolina has to be done before the end of 2017.

Bruce Shaw moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Matthew Kizer and unanimously approved.

APPROVED BY THE BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Deborah Hargis
April 12, 2017